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## More on Boyd Alexander's types from Lake Chad

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Boyd Alexander collected eleven new avian taxa when he visited Lake Chad in 1904-05. Dowsett & Moore (1997) clarified the type localities of two of these (Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris neglectus* and Greater Swamp Warbler *A. rufescens chadensis*). It is useful now to examine the remaining nine. Coordinates are given for localities not in the gazetteer of Elgood *et al.* (1994).

The following three races were described simply from "Lake Chad", with no other locality indicated:

*Caprimulgus natalensis chadensis* Alexander 1908 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 21: 90. Natal Nightjar.

No date was given originally, but the type was collected 30 April 1905 — date on label per Warren (1966), where the locality is given as Kowa Baga (13°07'N, 13°52'E), thus in Nigeria.

*Erythropygia galactotes oliviae* (Alexander 1908 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 23: 15). Rufous Bush Chat.

Collected 21 November 1904, and Warren & Harrison (1971) give locality on label as near Yo, thus in Nigeria.

***Bradypterus baboecala chadensis*** Bannerman 1936 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 57: 43. Little Rush Warbler.

Collected 1 December 1904 (though "Nov" on label per Warren & Harrison 1971), thus in any case at the same time generally as *Acrocephalus gracilirostris neglectus* (Alexander 1908) and *Batis orientalis chadensis* (see below). At that time Alexander was working the Nigerian shore, as shown by Dowsett & Moore (1997). Mrs A. Moore informs me (*in litt.*) that Alexander's notebooks (in the Natural History Museum, Tring) list birds collected at "Kopichi near Kuka" [i.e. Kukawa, 12°55'N, 13°34'E] on 30 November and also "*Quelea* .... Mongono 28.11.904"; although his map (Alexander 1907) shows Mongono on the Chad side of the lake (13°19'N, 14°04'E), at the end of November he would more likely have been at the Mongono in Nigeria at 12°41'N, 13°36'E (on most maps), just south of Kukawa.

The type locality of *B. baboecala chadensis* can thus be considered "Lake Chad (Nigeria)". Elgood *et al.* (1994) knew of "no positive record" from the Nigerian side of the lake. The species has recently been rediscovered there (Ulf Ottosson *et al.* unpublished).

Traylor (in Mayr & Cottrell 1986) has recognized this race, but as all anyone has had for examination is the single (immature, damaged) holotype, the best treatment remains that of Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1941), who treated it as a synonym (of *B. b. elgonensis*). The taxonomic status of other populations in northern Nigeria (Elgood *et al.* 1994) remains equally uncertain.

For the remaining six races full details of locality were in the original description, and all are on the Nigerian side of Lake Chad:

***Mirafr cantillans chadensis*** Alexander 1908 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 21: 89. Singing Bush Lark.

Kowa Baga, Lake Chad. Coll. 19 April 1905 (date on label per Warren & Harrison 1971).

***Riparia paludicola sudanensis*** (Alexander 1908 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 21: 88). African Sand Martin.

Bulturi, Lake Chad (13°28'N, 12°56'E). Coll. 12 January 1905. Bulturi is in fact on the Yobe river, some distance from the lake.

***Batis orientalis chadensis*** Alexander 1908 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 21: 105. Grey-headed Batis.

Arrigi (Arege), Lake Chad. Coll. 30 November 1904 (in original description male type 30.x. and female 30.xi.).

***Tchagra senegala chadensis*** Bannerman 1922 *Rev. Zool. afr.* 9: 355. Black-crowned Tchagra.

Yo, Lake Chad. Coll. 5 January 1905.

*Vidua chalybeata neumanni* (Alexander 1908 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 23: 33). Village Indigobird.

Yo, Lake Chad. Coll. 19 November 1904.

*Amadina fasciata sudanensis* Alexander 1907 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 19: 104. Cut-throat Finch.

Two types were designated in the original description, near Kukawa ("22 Nov. 1905" *sic*) & Marfoni (Maifoni, near Maiduguri) (28 January 1905). "Kuka" [i.e. Kukawa] was taken as the type locality by Sclater (1930). Note that Warren & Harrison (1971) gave the date on the label as 24 November 1904 (and indeed, on 22 November 1905 Alexander was far away, in the Oubangui region).

Note that it was through a slip of the pen that Warren & Harrison (1971) gave as "Pettia, Lake Chad" the type locality of the Mocking Chat *Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris claudi* (Alexander 1906 *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 16: 124). Pettia (10°09'N, 09°06'E) is in central Nigeria, and Alexander collected the type on 25 August 1904, a date which accords with his travels through that region.

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